GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6541
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
CNC CHUCKER MACHINES
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNC Chucker machines purchased at a cost of Rs.1.15 crore in November, 1989, March and June 1990 and commissioned in February and August 1991 respectively remained unproductive as has been reported by CAG in its Report No. 9 of 1998 on page 141;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board has looked into the genuineness of the causes and taken any action against the persons concerned for purchasing the machines;

(c) whether Flash Off Booth and Infra red Drying Oven was purchased at a cost of 0.35 crore without definite proven performance;

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing the same and the action taken by the Government against the persons responsible therefor;

(e) whether there have been lot of corruption in the purchase of store items in Eastern Railway during the last three to five years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a) No Sir. The CAG in his report pertaining to 1996- 97 observed that 3 CNC Chucker Machines had become defective about 4 to 5 years after being commissioned. These Machines had been productively utilised during the period they were in working order. However, the period of breakdown was considerable, mainly due to defect in Electronic Control System, the repair of which was beyond the control of Railways. It required repairs to be arranged through the original equipment manufacturer, which took some time. Chief Workshop Managers were subsequently delegated adequate financial powers to get the machines repaired with the help of original equipment manufacturers.

(b) In view of remarks at (a) above, no action was warranted against the persons responsible for purchase of equipment.

(c) The Flash off Booth and Infra-red Drying Oven was to be custom built and hence it was not necessary that an identical plant should have been earlier built by the supplier. Reference of similar plants i.e. those requiring similar engineering had to be supplied by the firm, details of which the supplier had submitted to the Railways. Eight of these plants had been in operation for 3 years at the time of finalisation of the tender. CAG was apprised of these facts in the Action Taken Note prepared by the Ministry of Railways, which was accepted as satisfactory by the CAG.

(d) In view of reply at (c) above, no such action is warranted.

(e) & (f): No Sir. However, regular checks are conducted from time to time in the area of purchase of stores and suitable action wherever necessary is taken against officials/staff responsible for irregularities/lapses.